

the unique contributions to America's culture from those of Turkish and Turkish-American decent.

As you may know, the Republic of Turkey has been paramount in its stride towards secular democracy since 1920. Turkey is the first secular democracy with a predominantly Muslim population in the world. As a key ally to U.S. for over 60 years, Turkey is a critical U.S. partner in countering terrorism, security and defense, trade, education, science, and innovation. Turkey has been invaluable in its role of hosting over 1.7 million Syrian refugees during the largest humanitarian crisis since World War II. Turkey also stands as a vital NATO ally in a region with escalated accounts of violence and tension and has been a partner in pushing back ISIL's control of certain territories.

Since 1927, Turkey has also designated April 23rd as Children's Day to signify the role of future generations in the modern Turkish statehood. Turkey commits every year by emphasizing the important role the younger generations have in succeeding their predecessors. As I and many of my colleagues acknowledge, children are the future of our nation. On this day, children from all across Turkey come together and take over the Grand National Assembly to voice their concerns.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate that the Congress has set aside this national day of celebration again in 2016. Turkish-Americans have left a unique imprint that has positively contributed to America's diverse cultural spectrum. Each year, it seems, we have a greater appreciation for the remarkable contribution of Turkey to our American values and democracy. We stand in deep appreciation and gratitude with our ally, Turkey on this Turkish National Day.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JANET HART HEINICKE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dr. Janet Hart Heinicke of Indianola, Iowa, as a 2016 Artist Art Within Everything Award winner.

Dr. Heinicke has been an artist and educator all of her life with her artwork on worldwide display. She exhibits her work internationally and has been a visiting artist in Vietnam, China, Tanzania, Malaysia, Philippines, Russia and Africa. Simpson College students have benefitted directly as she developed their full potential as artists. Dr. Heinicke holds a Doctorate of Education and Master of Science in Art Education from the University of Wisconsin and a Master of Fine Arts from Northern Illinois University.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Janet Hart Heinicke is an Iowan who has made its citizens very proud. She has dedicated her life to teaching, and creating art for the world. It is with great honor that I recognize her today. I ask that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in honoring Dr. Heinicke for her work, and wishing her continued success in all her future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF FRANCIS E. CIRILLO
III

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, last weekend, the State of Connecticut lost a true champion, and I lost a friend, with the unexpected passing of Francis E. Cirillo III. A lifetime Waterbury resident, Frank passed away just days before his 56th birthday.

A graduate of Wilby High School, Frank proudly served our country in the U.S. Navy during the Cold War. He served aboard the USS *Ranger* from 1978 to 1982 and earned the rank of Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class. He was awarded the Naval Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Navy Expeditionary Medal, Navy Good Conduct Medal, and National Defense Service Medal.

After his military service, Frank returned home to Waterbury where he began his civilian career at Connecticut Light and Power (now known as Northeast Utilities). Frank fell in love with Milena, his wife of 31 years, and together they raised a wonderful family, which he was immensely proud of—as anyone who spent time in Frank's office immediately learned through photos and mementos.

After 20 years at Northeast Utilities, Frank became a full-time union official in March 2004. He was famous and admired for his strong advocacy for the members of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 420 in Waterbury. Frank's outspokenness and passion served him well in his positions with the CT AFL-CIO, the Western CT Central Labor Council, the New England Utility Council, and the Local 420's COPE. His commitment to working families helped ensure that they received the services, benefits, and recognition they deserved. In 2013, he received the Paul A. Loughran Memorial Award for Outstanding Leadership.

Frank was frequently recognized for his hard work and community service. He was actively involved in civic and charitable organizations, serving as Waterbury's Good Jobs Liaison Commissioner, a member of the Waterbury Democratic Town Committee, and a member of Waterbury's American Italian Civic Club. He was honored in 2014 by the Waterbury Veterans Memorial Committee for his outstanding service to the city, state, and nation.

And I also note that Frank was frequently "recognized" as Al Pacino—his resemblance to the famous actor was so striking that Frank proudly hung a large Godfather poster behind his desk. Frank will be sorely missed by all those who were fortunate enough to know him. His contributions to the City of Waterbury and the State of Connecticut will not be forgotten. My heart and condolences go out to his family and friends as we remember the legacy and the glorious life of Frank Cirillo.

On a personal note, I will miss Frank's friendship, his directness, his guidance, and his love of life. He inspired and challenged me in all the best ways. And it simply will not be October without chilly Saturday morning door knocking with Frank. It's hard to imagine that Frank is not still with us—passionately advocating for working families, cracking jokes, and freely offering his assessment of anyone who he believed to be "full of it."

I have no doubt that Frank is stirring things up in heaven, letting St. Peter know exactly what he thinks.

HONORING LILLIE V. DAVIS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Lillie V. Thompson Davis.

Mrs. Lillie V. Thompson Davis, a life time resident of Quitman County, MS, has a strong belief in God; she is a friend to education, a retired school teacher of 42 years, and lives in Marks, MS. She has a teaching experience of more than forty-two years which include seventeen years as assistant principal, Adult Education teacher, teaching in the prison system, and in the state of Indiana. She is a graduate of Rust College Holly Springs, MS and earned a Master of Education from the University of MS Oxford, MS. She was one of the first of four teachers who taught in an integrated school system in an all white school in Marks, MS. Mrs. Davis is an advocate for education and has tutored students in reading and math without a fee, and made generous donations to an educational program. She is sustaining her teaching career as an advanced adult Sunday School teacher at her membership church in Marks, MS.

She initiated the idea to build a much needed gym for the Quitman County Middle School, by the passing of a bond issue. The first attempt to pass the bond issue failed by 23 votes November of 2013, but because of her fervent prayers, profound determination, and help of many dedicated hard working individuals, the bond issue of four million dollars was tried a second time and passed in November, 2014. She has been a member of the Quitman County School Board since 2006, and has worked untiringly trying to bring about positive changes for the boys and girls of the Quitman County School System. And also since she wanted to share her knowledge of some undocumented history of the early life of Blacks in the Delta, she wrote a book entitled "Drifting Into Falcon."

Mrs. Davis is the mother of three daughters: Pamela, Jamesetta and Wanda, who is deceased. She has five grandchildren: Larry, Brandon, Darnell, Steve and Ashley; and four great grandchildren: Debrisha, Marian, Lauren and Laila.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Lillie V. Davis because she is definitely the epitome of an unsung hero.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained yesterday during the last series of votes. Had I been here, I would have voted in the following manner:

Roll Call Vote No. 155, I would have voted NAY.